

Anansi and the Sky God's Daughter

Who Is Smarter?

This problem invites children to find more ways than Anansi and Abosom did to express 10 as the sum or difference of other numbers. Unlike typical addition and subtraction practice, here children get the answer and must work backwards to create the problem.

Who is smarter, Anansi or Abosom? Some think Anansi is smarter because he found the secret name. Others think Abosom is smarter because he married the Sky God's daughter.

After a lot of arguing, Anansi and Abosom plan a contest. They will each list ways to make 10 by adding and subtracting numbers. Everyone agrees that the one with the longest list must be the smartest.

Anansi and Abosom worked very hard on this problem. After a half an hour, they compared results.

Here is Anansi's list:

$8 + 2$	$9 + 1$
$5 + 5$	$20 - 10$
$1 + 9$	$1 + 1 + 8$

He found six ways to make 10.

Here is Abosom's list:

$3 + 3 + 4$	$5 + 4 + 1$
$16 - 6$	$10 + 0$
$18 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2$	$7 + 3$

Abosom also found six ways.

It's a tie!

Can you beat Anansi and Abosom? Create your own list. How many different ways can you discover to make 10?

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Here is Anansi's list:

$$8 + 2$$

$$5 + 5$$

$$1 + 9$$

$$9 + 1$$

$$20 - 10$$

$$1 + 1 + 8$$



Here is Abosom's list:

$$3 + 3 + 4$$

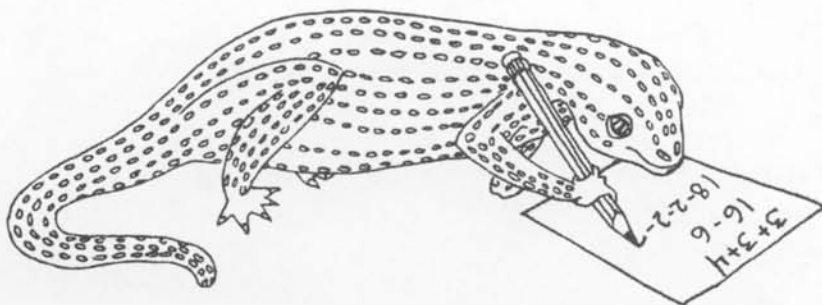
$$16 - 6$$

$$18 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2$$

$$5 + 4 + 1$$

$$10 + 0$$

$$7 + 3$$



How many ways can you find to make 10?